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OPS-2 SW
Bee file *X/phon 6)*

LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 16 September 1988

1. [] In discussing the classified storage question at Swaziland Bureau, [] reported that both ex-Ambassador Nelson and current Ambassador Mary Ryan had taken the position that the Mission would await the outcome of discussions at the inter-agency level in Washington. []

[] noted that the same RSO was involved here as in Abidjan. The RSO had at one point sent Pretoria a message saying FBIS/Abidjan had closed out its classified holdings.

On the staffing front [] believes Swaziland is in good shape, though it does need one or two Portuguese monitors to fill existing vacancies. He has a T/O of [] Portuguese, one of which is a chief monitor position. He can do the job with four monitors if need be, albeit at the cost of some curtailment of weekend shifts and use of O/T if hit with an extended absence of one of the others. I told John to recruit one but to leave the [] position open as part of a needed Personal Services safety valve. He thinks he can get along on that basis.

The teletype staff has been stable, with no turnover, and has settled down well after some rocky years. General bureau morale is good.

The results of an FSN wage survey were sent to Washington on 29 July by the Embassy with a recommendation for a 10-12 percent increase retroactive to that date. Approval is expected in December. An increase is expected 1 October in TCN benefits also, after discussion between the bureau and Headquarters, which will drive up PS costs. TCNs have had housing; now they will be getting education and EOT travel as well. Costs should not be exorbitant, since the bureau has only three TCNs, four when the Portuguese is hired. [] is doubtful about how to assign acceptable housing allowances to TCNs, at a mission where there is no formal LQA. The regs allow for an arbitrary \$4K in such cases, but he needs to know how much latitude he has. He is also concerned about retirement planning for FBNs. I told him about Admin Staff plans for developing a worldwide retirement system for FSNs. The Embassy has sent the Department bids from three local firms offering retirement plans, but the process is expected to take a year or more.

He suggested the bureau might need TDY help to tide it over a 6-8 week period in November when the Portuguese monitors plan R&R.

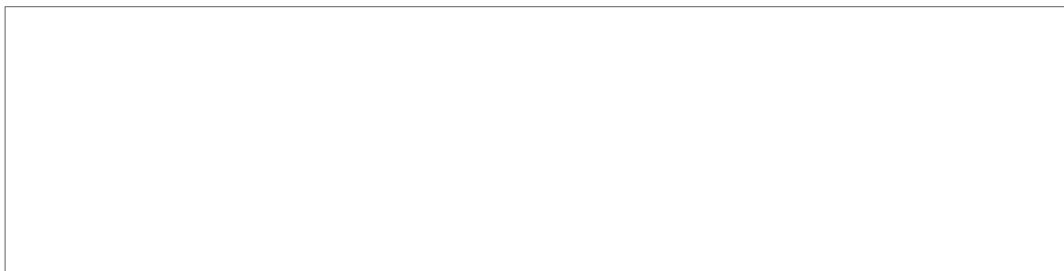
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That would depend on funding being available and on whether a Paraguay Portuguese monitor would understand the brand Swaziland hears. If not feasible, the bureau could survive by cutting weekend shifts and using some O/T.

[redacted] was glad to hear ESG plans an antenna survey as soon as possible in FY-89. The hilltop site has been disappointing and subject to frequent, violent lightning storms. The bureau's circuitry is vulnerable to South African politics. I told him ESG was looking at alternatives but that both ITS and Skylink were expensive options and unlikely.

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(cc: D/FBIS, C/AS, C/ESG, C/MOD, C/Paraguay Bureau)

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